

Gary Peters  
Annette Peters  
2779 450<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kenyon, MN 55946

July 3, 2009

RE: CapX 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is being sent to you because we are concerned about the proposed CapX 2020 project that may be coming through Minnesota. Our property is in the area for the Hampton-Rochester-Lacrosse 345 KV Transmission Project. Our home is located in Section 28 of Holden Township in Goodhue County, Minnesota. Our property is residential and sits on approximately 3.50 acres. We live in a rural agricultural community. Our home is surrounded by farm fields a small woods that is home to deer, wild turkeys and a wide variety of other wildlife.

The various power companies involved in this project have been providing data showing the increased demand for power through 2004 and thus the need for this project. However, the data for the years after 2004 show that there is an actual decrease in usage. Our hope is that all alternatives to this massive project have been studied and fairly evaluated. This project will stretch from the Dakotas through Minnesota and Wisconsin. The transmission lines are said to lose 30% of the power they are carrying. They propose to use coal. We seem to be making strides in conservation and in using renewable resources to produce energy. Is a project of this magnitude really the best solution?

As we stated before, ours is an agricultural community and our township and county are dedicated to keeping our family farms and our agricultural base. The acres of land that will be taken for right of ways if this project is approved is astounding. There are also small woods and stands of trees that will suffer if these huge lines are allowed to come through our state. Transmission lines will mar the beauty of the area, drive down property values, cause potential health threats, and cause various problems that farms will need to "work around" for years to come. Becoming a corridor for transmission lines (for which we see no direct benefit) is not something we or anyone else I know wants. I was told that height of the poles for these lines will be approximately the height of the Statue of Liberty!

The proposed route though our township appears to be very close to many homes. We know that these power lines can be harmful to both people and

#### I-239-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:  
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

#### I-239-002

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-239-001  
I-239-004

I-239-005  
I-239-002  
I-239-006

I-239-007  
I-239-008

wildlife but still do not know the full effect of long term exposure. We know it interferes with various electrical and GPS systems, etc. We were informed at one meeting we attended that farmers may need to ground their machinery when working around these lines. We also understand that it can interfere with radio and television transmission.

I-239-009  
I-239-010

I have read many of the comments submitted by others regarding this project and I have heard many others speak at previous meetings. The reasons for not wanting these lines in our area are the same reasons others do not want them in their areas; including the effect on our property values. We don't want the view from our homes to be massive transmission lines. There is no compensation for those living near the lines and no amount of money would suffice for the loss we would incur in so many ways.

I-239-003

We hope that another solution can be found so none of us will have to have these huge transmission lines near our homes. However, we know that the power companies involved as well state and local governments will prosper from this project and fear that it will be approved. If this project is approved we hope that the least invasive route would be used. We appreciate attempts to stay away from homes when possible, but these lines will still be very close to many homes. Also, is taking this valuable rural land really the best answer? If the project goes forward we feel that the most logical route is not through Holden Township and Highway 56 or Highway 60. The other route goes along Highway 52. Homes in this area would be further from the line. It would also seem to be a shorter and thus less expensive route to use. This route is also more industrial and commercial than the route along Highways 56 and 60.

Sincerely,

Gary & Annette Peters

*Gary Peters* *Annette Peters*

### I-239-003

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:  
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

### I-239-004

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

### I-239-005

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

### I-239-006

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

### I-239-007

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

### I-239-008

Your comment has been noted. Interference with electrical equipment caused by the transmission lines will be addressed with individual landowners if the problem arises.

**I-239-009**

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

**I-239-010**

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

**I-239-011**

Your comment has been noted. RUS anticipates that the CapX2020 Utilities would pay for land rights based on an independent appraisal and will work with property owners to negotiate easement payments after the permitting process.

Potential impacts to social and economic resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement which will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.